

*D. valido* pileus in fundo olivascens, plumis nigro terminatis et striis ochraceis tenuioribus, in apice dilatatis præditis), corpore supra subtusque (imprimis in pectore) rufescentiore, gula absque marginibus lateralibus obscuris et striis in pectore angustioribus, necnon alis caudaque multo brevioribus; a *D. picumno* differt pileo in fundo non pure nigro, corpore supra subtusque multo rufescentiore (nec olivascente), tectricibus caudæ superioribus pure castaneo-rufis, striis in pileo minoribus et magis ochrascentibus (nec albescens) et tergo medio absque striis.

It is not easy to explain the specific characters of this new species in comparison with *D. validus*, Tschud., and *D. picumnus*, Licht., as it is, in fact, somewhat intermediate between the two; but I trust the above diagnosis will help ornithologists to recognize it at a glance among its congeners.

I have examined a typical specimen of *D. pallescens*, Pelz., kindly lent me by the illustrious describer of it. It proves to be another good species, allied to *D. validus* and *D. intermedius*, but easily distinguished from both by its yellowish-white bill and the pale olivaceous crown, striped in the same style as in *D. validus*. It has been well described, and its distinctness from *D. validus* correctly pointed out, by Herr von Pelzeln (Orn. Bras. p. 61).

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XIV.—*On a new Reed-Warbler from the Island of Nawodo, or Pleasant Island, in the Western Pacific.* By OTTO FINSCH, Ph.D., H.M.B.O.U., &c.

HAVING unpacked part of my collections from the Pacific, and taken a general look through my birds, I find that the Warbler from Nawodo, or Pleasant Island, has been wrongly identified by me with *Calamoherpe syrinx*. After a careful examination I have come to the conclusion that this bird belongs to a new species, which I have the pleasure of naming after my indefatigable companion during all my travels in the South Seas, Herr Ernst Rehse, of Berlin.

*CALAMOHERPE REHSEI*, sp. nov.

*Calamoherpe syrinx*, Finsch, Ibis, 1881, p. 246.

Upper parts rufescent brown, more vivid on the rump and upper tail-coverts; a well-defined longitudinal stripe from the nostrils above the lores to behind the eyes light rufescent, the same as the sides of head and neck and all the lower parts, which are brightest on the flanks, lower tail-, and under wing-coverts; chin and throat lighter, passing into yellowish white; wings and tail umber-brown, faintly margined externally with rufescent; tail-feathers tipped faintly with the same colour; bill horn-brown, basal half of the lower mandible yellowish horn-colour; legs and feet dark brown. In life—bill dark horn-brown, basal half of lower mandible flesh-coloured; legs and feet lead-coloured; iris brown; inside of mouth orange.

Total l.	Wing.	Tail.	Culm.	Tars.	
"	" " " "	" " " "	" "	"	
c. 6	2 9-2 10	2 4-2 6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7	12	Two males.
c. 6	2 8-2 9	2 3-2 4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	Five females.
	3 2	2 5	7	13	<i>C. orientalis</i> ; Batavia.
	2 8-2 11	2 6	9	12	<i>C. syrinx</i> ; Ruck.

In coloration this species corresponds almost completely with *C. syrinx* and the well-known *C. orientalis*, of which I have before me one specimen shot near Batavia; but it may be easily distinguished from *C. orientalis* by the short rounded wings, and from *C. syrinx* by the short bill. *C. orientalis* has the upper parts of a more dull rufescent, the eye-stripe and lower parts lighter, more whitish; but this may be peculiar to the season, as my birds were all shot in the breeding-season, and are assuming a new and brighter plumage. *C. rehsei* has distinctly rounded wings, the first primary being very short (as in all Reed-Warblers), the third, fourth, and fifth the longest and equal, and the sixth only very little shorter; the second is considerably shorter, about three lines; the primaries reach only 5<sup>'''</sup> beyond the secondaries. *C. orientalis* has a more pointed wing, the third primary being the longest, the second and fourth only very little shorter; the primaries reach beyond the secondaries 10<sup>'''</sup>. The formula of the wing in *C. syrinx*,

of which I have before me two specimens from the Ruck group (Hogoleu), Central Carolines, is nearly the same as in *C. rehsei*; but *C. syrinx* is a quite different species, as is shown by its narrow, slender, and much longer bill.

In regard to the habits of this new species I must refer to No. VII. of my "Ornithological Letters from the Pacific" (Ibis, *l. c.*), concerning the island of Nawodo, or Pleasant Island of the South-Sea people, which I visited on July 24th, 1880, being the first naturalist who ever landed on its shores. This island has been elevated by submarine forces, and consists only of coral-rock, but bears a more luxuriant vegetation than the pure low coral islands or atolls. Nawodo, situated in  $0^{\circ} 25'$  S. lat., and  $167^{\circ} 5'$  E. long., is peculiar for its isolated position. The nearest land is Bonaba, or Ocean Island, 180 sea-miles south-east, which, according to my information (as I had not an opportunity of visiting the island myself), has a similar character; but this bird does not occur there. The same is the case with Ebon (or Boston Island), about 500 miles north, where, as in the rest of the Marshall and Gilbert groups, no land-bird exists at all. The other islands near to Nawodo are, to the south, the Santa-Cruz group, about 800 nautical miles distant, to the south-west Ontang-Java or Lord Howe's group, about the same, and more nearly due west New Ireland (over 1500), to the east Nonouti, in the Gilbert group (about 700), and to the north-west Kuschai. It will be seen from this that Nawodo is very isolated; and the occurrence of a notoriously bad-flying bird, such as this *Calamoherpe*, may make us wonder how this species originally came there.

In relation to this point I may add that I shall have to publish hereafter a lot of interesting facts regarding the geographical distribution of animals, chiefly birds—a subject which, I must confess, has always had a greater interest to my mind than the discovery of a new species.

Bremen, January, 1883.